

CURRENT TOPICS.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD.

GEN. BEN. HARRISON, of Indianapolis, and Gen. Comstock, of Detroit, have prepared a minority report of the Mississippi River Commission, which differs radically from the conclusions and recommendations of the majority. The latter argue in favor of a general system of levees. The minority say that they are satisfied that levees are of very little benefit, if any, in improving low-water navigation. Bad navigation arises or is caused by excessive width of low water in certain places, and it must be cured by contracting such places to a width not exceeding three thousand feet. This contraction must and can only be secured, they argue, by work in the channel of the stream itself, and not by building levees on the tops of the banks, far removed from contact with the low-water river. Gens. Harrison and Comstock unite in conceding the necessity of levees in protecting alluvial land from destruction by overflow, and to obtain this protection urge the closing of such gaps as now exist along the river. The result of Capt. Eads's experiment at the jetties, they claim, has exploded the idea of improving the river by the levee system.

JUDGE McCARY in the United States Court at St. Louis recently rendered an important decision in the suit brought by the United States against the Missouri Pacific Railroad for \$135,000 taxes, falling due between 1864 and 1871. He ruled that as no assessment and demand had been made at the time or until 1877, when the property had passed into other hands, no lien could be established, and his decision was in favor of the railroad.

GEN. MILES, in an official telegram announcing the presence of Sitting Bull on United States Territory, states that he is reliably informed that while Sioux war parties have been depredating on the settlements their camps have been obtaining supplies from no less than four Government trading establishments between the Missouri River and the boundary line.

THE House Committee on Railways and Canals have agreed to report favorably Mr. Upson's bill to authorize the Secretary of War to contract with the San Antonio and Mexican Border Railway Company for the immediate construction of a railroad from San Antonio to Laredo. The committee amended the bill by limiting the bonds to be issued to \$12,000 per mile instead of \$15,000, as originally proposed.

THE Maine Legislative Committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of Ex-Gov. Garcelon and Council have made a report. The committee charge that the returns were fraudulently doctored, for the purpose of counting out Republicans and thereby securing a Fusion Governor and Legislature, and declare that the Governor and Council must have been parties to this alleged premeditated fraud. Various appropriations, it is averred, have been diverted from their legitimate purposes, and public funds drawn from the Treasury without warrant of law. A large sum of money belonging to the State remains in the hands of Gov. Garcelon and other officials of last year, it is claimed, which should be recovered back into the Treasury.

THE Agricultural Department estimates the increase in the value of the crops raised in 1879 over those of the previous year at \$415,000,000. The price of real estate has been enhanced during the same time about \$1,000,000,000.

THERE are 73,000 people in Donegal, Ireland, who need relief.

THE House Committee on Revision of the Laws will report Mr. Singleton's bill declaring telegraph messages exempt from unreasonable search and seizure, and from production as evidence in judicial and legislative proceedings, to the same extent as communications sent by the United States Mail.

EX-SENATOR CHRISTIANCY, of Michigan, now Minister to Peru, has begun proceedings for divorce in Washington against his youthful wife, whom he charges with various indiscretions. Mrs. Christiancy, it is said, will begin counter-proceedings, her grounds being ill-treatment, even to personal castigation, by her aged partner. The venerable Michigan Senator's marriage to the pretty Treasury clerk

created quite a social sensation at the National Capital, and the proceedings for divorce are likely to furnish the gossip with a still more palatable morsel for their wagging tongues.

THE House Committee on Elections will report in the Donnelly-Washburn (Minnesota) case, unseating Washburn, Republican, and giving the seat to Donnelly, Democratic, National and Workingmen's candidate. The sub-committee's report cites a large number of cases in which bribery was traced directly to Washburn or his immediate agents, also alleges intimidation, fraud, etc. There will be a minority report, signed by all the Republican members of the Committee.

THE political debate on the General Deficiency bill, which passed the House on the 19th, was of considerable interest. The amendment offered by Mr. Garfield, providing that Deputy Marshals shall be appointed by Circuit or District Court Judges, in equal numbers from each political party, was hotly opposed by Messrs. Reed, of Maine, Williams, of Wisconsin, and other Republicans, but finally passed by fifty-three majority, quite a number of Republicans voting with Mr. Garfield in favor of his amendment. When the bill was reported from the Committee of the Whole to the House, however, all the Republicans, including Garfield, refused to support it, on the ground of opposition to general legislation in an appropriation bill. A number of Democrats, headed by Mr. Buckner, of Missouri, also ranged themselves in opposition to the bill, as being in recognition of the validity of the Federal Election laws, and voted against its adoption, but enough subsequently changed their votes to secure its passage. It is anticipated that there will be a lengthy debate on the bill when it reaches the Senate.

DURING an entertainment at the public hall in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Pa., on the night of the 20th, the floor gave way and a large portion of the audience, which numbered 400 or 500 persons, was precipitated to the floor below. Five persons were killed and twenty or more injured, some of them seriously.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

THE Denver Tribune has received information, considered reliable, of the massacre of a party of prospectors, by the Utes, in the Blue Mountains, in Southwestern Colorado, along about the first of March. The names of five of the murdered men are given and there were several others of the party.

THE Missouri Democratic State Convention, to select delegates to the National Convention, will be held on May 26th, at Moberly.

THE Iowa Legislature has voted in favor of a Constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, including wine and beer. The amendment has to be ratified by the next Legislature.

A SPECIAL from Rome says that the Pope has approved and named Rt. Rev. Michael Heiss, now Bishop of LaCrosse, Wis., as Coadjutor, with the right of succeeding to the Archbishop of Milwaukee, and approved and named Rev. John A. Watterson, President of St. Mary's College, Emmetsburg, Md., to be Bishop of Columbus, Ohio.

SECRETARY SCHURZ has issued public notice to squatters upon the Ute Reservation lands that their claims will not be recognized, the land having not as yet been restored to the public domains.

A DANGEROUS \$20 United States Treasury note has made its appearance in the West. It is of the series of 1875, letter C, and printed on imitation fiber paper. The shading under the words "United States" is darker than in the genuine note, but the general appearance of the bill is good.

DENNIS KEARNEY has been sentenced by a San Francisco police magistrate to six months' imprisonment in the House of Correction and to pay a fine of \$1,000. He gave bonds and appealed to the Superior Court.

THE President has renominated William E. Brown for Census Supervisor in the Eighth Illinois District. Mr. Brown was previously rejected by the Senate on account of political considerations.

A PARTY of about seventy-five disguised men visited the Jail at Winchester, Scott County, Ill., at an early hour on the morning of the 17th, and having obtained access to the building by overpowering the Jailor, went to the cell occupied by Joseph J. Fields and riddled him with bullets. Fields had shot and killed James Padgett a few weeks previous.

THE President has confirmed the sentence passed upon Major Reno of dismissal from the Army.

It is reported that the recent cold spell killed the fruit and seriously injured the cotton and corn throughout many parts of the South.

THE Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, by a strict party vote, decided to report in favor of unseating Kellogg and admitting Spooford.

A TELEGRAM from Alexandria, Egypt, says that in consequence of unfavorable weather a large quantity of cotton must be resown, and the crop will be late.

THE Southern Pacific Railroad was completed to Tucson, Arizona, on the 17th. At Chicago, on the 17th, Martin

Power, aged 46, shot and probably fatally wounded his wife, Bridget, aged 23, and then shot himself, producing death almost instantly. Jealousy was the cause. They had only been married five months.

THE Kansas City Commercial Indicator estimates the coming drive of Texas cattle to number 294,300, principally young cattle, of which about one-third have been disposed of in advance.

At St. Louis on the morning of the 18th, Conrad Hiemann, while in a drunken craze, stabbed his wife and two-year-old child, the latter while in its mother's arms. The wife was almost instantly killed; the babe was probably fatally injured. John Hiemann, a brother of the murderer, also received a severe cut while trying to restrain the latter. The murderer fled, but was arrested a few hours later, while wandering about in an apparently crazed condition.

It is announced that the Central Branch Railroad has been consolidated with the Union Pacific, and will, on and after the 1st of April, cease to be a division of the Missouri Pacific. The road will resume its old name of the Central Branch Union Pacific, and its main line will be extended at an early day to a connection with the Union Pacific Railroad.

FOUR train-loads of excursionists from Chattanooga and other Southern points arrived in Cincinnati on the 17th, to celebrate the opening of the Cincinnati Southern Road. The excursionists were entertained with most profuse hospitalities.

At Aurora, Ill., on the morning of the 17th, Mrs. W. Baldwin was found dead in bed with her jugular vein severed, and beside her lay her unconscious husband with several gashes in his throat, arms and abdomen. His wounds are not serious. Baldwin came from Vermont, and they had been married only three weeks. Cause of the tragedy unknown.

THE Louisiana Republican State Convention will meet at New Orleans on May 24.

THE Michigan State Greenback Convention met at Detroit on the 17th and elected delegates to the National Convention.

THE Western nail-mills, by agreement, have shut down all their works for a while in order to prevent over-production. HOMER WELLINGTON, a well known business man of Boston, of high social standing, is under arrest, charged with poisoning his wife and little boy, and also of the minor crime of forgery. His wife will probably recover. The boy died with every symptom of poisoning.

THE Illinois Democratic State Convention, to select delegates to the National Convention, will be held at Springfield, June 10.

THE Rhode Island Republicans have nominated Alfred H. Littlefield for Governor and Henry H. Fay for Lieutenant-Governor.

CLARENCE DAVIS, the bigamist, who appears to have had five or six wives in various parts of America (having one or two in Canada), has been held to bail by a Chicago Police Justice in \$8,000 to appear at the Criminal Court.

GEN. CHARLES ADAMS, of Colorado, who conducted the negotiations for the surrender of the Ute prisoners, has been appointed Minister to Bolivia. Bret Harte has been appointed United States Consul at Glasgow.

GEN. J. H. SIMPSON, for many years stationed at St. Louis in charge of river improvements, has been retired from service at his own request, and will be succeeded by Capt. Ernst, of the Engineer Corps. Gen. Simpson graduated at West Point in 1818, and has been in constant service for forty-eight years.

THE Illinois State Greenback-Labor Convention will be held at Springfield, April 21, to select delegates to the Chicago Convention.

FRANK G. FALLS, a former resident of Memphis, together with four negroes, were drowned at Walnut Bend, Ark., by the capsizing of a skiff, on the 18th.

A DUEL was fought in Brunswick County, Va., on the 19th, between R. A. Raney, a young lawyer, and Richard Jolly, a "drummer." The latter was wounded in the right arm. A second fire was about being had when the whole party were captured by the Sheriff. The affair originated in a discussion about State politics.

WM. B. PIERSON was hanged at Geneseo, N. Y., on the 19th, for the murder of L. B. Withey, by poison, in January, 1877. The victim's wife, whom Pierson subsequently married, was tried as an accessory to the crime, but was acquitted.

SAMUEL H. MYERS was hanged at Cleburne, Tex., on the 19th, for the murder of Mrs. A. Hester, in February, 1877.

JOHANNES DEBOER, aged 17, was hanged at Pontiac, Ill., on the 17th, for the murder, in October last, of Ella Martin, a young girl of about the same age, under circumstances of peculiar atrocity.

CHARLES C. TAYLOR, city editor of the Philadelphia Times, shot himself on the 14th, while in a state of mental aberration, and has since died.

GEORGE H. HAMMOND, an actor of some repute, committed suicide at Boston on the 14th. His stage name was George H. Hillman.

FORTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

MARCH 15.—Senate.—Mr. Davis, of Illinois, presented a petition from the publishers of Chicago, asking for the removal of the duty on all articles used in making paper, and made a speech in advocacy of the same.

Messrs. Williams, Beck, Johnson and others presented similar petitions from their respective States. Senator Bayard, from the Committee on Judiciary, reported favorably the Senate bill prohibiting the arrest of election officers on election day. Placed on the calendar. The Republican members will present a minority report. House.—A number of bills were introduced and referred. An effort was made to suspend the rules and take up and pass the bill relating to public lands, but the motion was defeated. Mr. Cox (D., N. Y.) was recognized by the Speaker to move to suspend the rules for the purpose of

passing a bill for the relief of the suffering Irish, but he was called off by a motion to adjourn. He, however, obtained leave to have printed the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs upon the bill. Mr. Buckner (D., Mo.) introduced a resolution fixing May 21 as the day of adjournment. Referred.

MARCH 16.—Senate.—Mr. Davis, of Illinois, presented a memorial of the leading merchants of Chicago praying the enactment of a uniform bankruptcy law, and spoke in favor thereof. Mr. Edmunds introduced a bill to fix the day for the meeting of the electors of President and Vice-President, and to provide for and regulate the counting of the votes for President and Vice-President and the decision of questions arising thereon. Referred to the select committee on the subject. House.—Mr. Sawyer (D., Mo.) called up the contested election case of Bradley vs. Simons, from the second District of Arkansas. Mr. McMahon (D., O.) raised a question of consideration in the House as to whether the case, and the morning hour being dispensed with, the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Deficiency Appropriation bill.

MARCH 17.—Senate.—The Star Mail-route Deficiency bill passed, without the House preamble. The amount appropriated is \$1,100,000 to continue old service and \$100,000 to begin new. The bill removing the political disability of Roger A. Pryor passed. House.—The morning hour was dispensed with and the Special Deficiency bill was further considered in Committee of the Whole, the principal item under discussion being for the payment of Special Deputy Marshals.

MARCH 18.—Senate.—After some miscellaneous business, consideration was resumed of the House bill for the establishment of titles in Hot Springs, the question being on the substitute reported by the Senate Committee on Public Lands. No action was taken before adjournment. House.—The morning hour was dispensed with and the Special Deficiency bill was further considered in Committee of the Whole, the principal item under discussion being for the payment of Special Deputy Marshals.

MARCH 19.—Senate.—The Hot Springs bill passed. It provides for reducing by five per cent. the assessments to be paid by occupants to secure their titles. The Geneva Award bill was then taken up and the Senate went into executive session. House.—Mr. Wright (D., Pa.) Chairman of the Committee on Labor Depression, reported a joint resolution requesting the President to give notice to the Chinese Government of our desire to annul the treaty with that Government relating to immigration. It was placed on the calendar and majority and minority reports ordered printed. The morning hour was dispensed with, and the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Special Deficiency bill. A spirited debate took place regarding the proposed amendment in reference to the pay of Marshals. The bill was finally reported to the House and passed—yeas 101, nays 101—nearly a party vote. The deficiency appropriation, \$1,000,000 for public printing was passed without any demand for the yeas and nays.

MARCH 20.—Senate.—Not in session. House.—The session was for debate only on the Funding bill, which was considered in Committee of the Whole.

Speech of Senator Davis, of Illinois, on the Repeal of the Paper Tax.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 14. Senator David Davis presented a memorial signed by the principal newspaper publishers of Chicago, asking that the present duty of 20 per cent. on the valuation of foreign unsized paper be repealed. Senator Davis, in presenting this memorial, made the following remarks endorsing the petition of the memorialists:

MR. PRESIDENT: I am charged with the duty of presenting a memorial from the publishers of the principal newspapers of Chicago, respectfully asking that the present duty of 20 per cent. on the valuation of foreign unsized paper be repealed. This tax produces little revenue and serves only to enlarge the profits of manufacturers, who, enjoying a monopoly, are able to dictate their own terms to the consumers. These memorialists also ask that the duty on soda-ash, principally made abroad, and the duty on wood, straw, and all other pulp be abolished, so that the American manufacturer of paper will stand on an equal footing with his foreign competitor at the start, with the advantage of freight, insurance, a ready market, and the charges attending importation on this side, as against the paperer abroad; and, lastly, they ask that the duty on type, which is virtually prohibitory, be wiped out, because, like that on paper, it exclusively benefits a company, unable to dictate their own terms to the consumers.

These propositions seem to be so plain and so just as to require no argument in their behalf. What is true of Chicago applies with equal force to the rest of the whole United States, and especially to that portion of it familiarly known as the "country papers." The great metropolitan journals can take care of themselves under almost any condition of duty, but the far-fetchedness to good reason why they should be subjected to imposition or to wrong. The main burden of these taxes falls heaviest on the papers of the interior, dependent on local circulation and unable to compete with those of the large cities. After all, it is struggling labor that has to carry the load of taxation, in whatever form it may be imposed. The press is one of the wonders attending the growth of our institutions. In the history of the human race there is nothing comparable to this development. It is not only the bulwark of liberty, but it is the mighty popular instructor, more beneficent and wide-reaching than the most far-fetched theories of religion, of which it is one of the main props. Complaint is made that this power is sometimes abused, and that we in public life are too often censoriously criticised. It will be a sad day for the Republic when criticisms upon the acts and the speech of Senators and Representatives shall be curbed, and a still sadder day when those acts and that speech can not invite the sternest criticism. What food is but for the press is to the mind. It has become a daily necessity and nourishment, from the palace of the money king to the cabin of the pioneer on the plains, whose brain and muscle are integral parts of the Empire. To make the press wholly independent and to widen its influence, every restriction of unjust or unwise laws ought to be removed.

The time has come, Mr. President, when the man of incongruities and of huge monopolies commonly called the tariff should be revised and adapted to the spirit of a progressive age. A young people like ours becomes restive under the old tariff, and the people are passing in the confusion of civil strife, or under the pressure of selfish policies. It may not be practicable at this session to reform the revenue system; indeed, reputed action elsewhere forbids any hope of that kind; but there should be no difficulty in an exceptional case like that presented in this memorial. Only a few months ago Congress very properly swept away the obnoxious duty on quinine, and has long been maintained for the profit of a few manufacturers in a single city. That remedy had at best only a local application. In this instance the newspaper of the entire country are oppressed by taxes which are a delusion and a snare. They bring nothing of importance into the Treasury, and they only stand, as the duty on quinine did, as an excuse for increasing the dividends of what may be described as a close corporation of special interests.

THE pressure of water on the main reservoir in Lansingburg, N. Y., was recently so great that it forced off the main valve, which weighed a ton, and threw it fifty feet. The water that followed rose one hundred and fifty feet, struck the embankment of the Troy and Boston Railroad, and washed away twenty-five feet of it.

THREE Chinamen are doing service on the Union Pacific as firemen and are said to be good workers.

HERE AND THERE.

THE Department of State is informed that American medical diplomas are being sold in Berlin.

AN Indianapolis shoemaker named Peterson is charged with having attempted to swallow a note for \$50, given by him to Christ Schneider for services performed. Schneider presented the note for payment, when the feat of deglutition was attempted. A Mr. Essegke was called to prevent it, and by vigorous choking compelled Peterson to give it up and out.

DEADWOOD mortuary statistics, as given in the Pioneer: According to the report of Undertaker Smith 152 Black Hillers have crossed the range during the brief period in which papers were headed 1879. Out of these 92 went the good old way, 22 shuffled off this mortal coil by accidents, 5 died with their boots on, being shot by Sunday-school teachers from the East, and 3 hadn't the grit to face the storm and sunshine of life, and hastened their exit by resorting to poison and other equally effective banes.

A LETTER from Carlisle, Penn., about the attempt making there to civilize the Indian youth, says: "One hundred and sixty-six youths of both sexes are daily in the school. Nearly all have learned to spell correctly English words of one syllable. All trace neatly pot-hook characters and short words of copy-books. Many add three columns of figures, read simple sentences of short words, and know the elements of geography. Bad behaviour is the exception and insubordination unknown. They have a newspaper—Eagle Kaahlah Toh—Big Morning Star. The girls are fast learning to sew and darn stockings, and are trained in various duties of house-keeping. Six boys are working at shoe-making, several at tin-smithing and at carpentering, and some will soon be set at harness-making. The boys are organized into three military companies, which do sentinel duty about the fort and are officered from among their own number."

A Prince on Sentry Duty.

In Bavaria a quaint custom obtains, rendering it obligatory upon every Prince of the reigning house to perform at least one day's active duty as a private soldier in the royal army. On the 24th of last month Prince Alphonso, of Bavaria, first cousin to the musical King, completed his eighteenth year and attained his majority. Greatly to the entertainment of the Munich public, which crowded the Marienplatz to contemplate his performances, he celebrated his birthday by doing duty as a sentry in front of the principal guard-house of the Capital. Although he had received his Lieutenant's commission in the morning, he took up his post as a simple sentinel, duly great-coated and armed with sword-bayonet and rifle, which latter he shouldered at the correct angle as he marched to and fro on his beat or stood "at ease" before his sentry-box, giving the prescribed salutes in all their subtle nuances to every officer that passed by. Being an uncommonly good-looking youth, he was gazed at with admiration and approval during his "spell" on guard by great numbers of Munich dames and damsels, who gave utterance to their feelings by plaudits when he was relieved from his post in the usual manner, and marched off to barracks, rifle on shoulder, with the relief party.—London Telegraph.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK, March 22, 1880.	
CATTLE—Native Steers.....	8.00 @ 10.25
HOGS—Common to Choice.....	6.25 @ 7.50
HOGS—Live.....	4.50 @ 5.25
COTTON—Middling.....	13 1/2 @ 13 3/4
FLOUR—Good to Choice.....	5.50 @ 5.60
WHEAT—No. 1 Red.....	1.45 1/2 @ 1.46 1/2
CORN—No. 2.....	35 1/2 @ 35 3/4
OATS—Western.....	44 @ 45 1/2
PORK—Mess.....	11.00 @ 11.25
ST. LOUIS.	
COTTON—Middling.....	12 1/2 @ 12 3/4
BEEVES—Choice to Fancy.....	4.50 @ 5.10
HOGS—Good to Prime.....	4.25 @ 4.75
Native Cows.....	2.75 @ 3.50
Texas Steers.....	2.40 @ 4.00
HOGS—Common to Select.....	5.00 @ 4.50
SHEEP—Common to Choice.....	3.25 @ 3.25
FLOUR—XXX to Choice.....	5.45 @ 5.35
WHEAT—Red Winter, No. 2.....	1.19 1/2 @ 1.20
CORN—No. 2 Mixed.....	35 1/2 @ 35 3/4
OATS—No. 2.....	31 1/2 @ 32
RYE—No. 2.....	73 1/2 @ 74
TIMOTHY SEED—Prime.....	2.50 @ 2.65
TOBACCO—Dark Lugs.....	3.00 @ 3.75
Medium Dark Leaf.....	5.50 @ 7.50
HAY—Choice Timothy.....	17.00 @ 18.00
BUTTER—Choice Dairy.....	28 @ 30
EGGS—Fresh Canned.....	68 @ 69 1/2
PORK—Standard Mess.....	11.00 @ 11.12 1/2
WOOL—Tub-washed, Choice.....	60 @ 61
Unwashed Medium.....	38 @ 38
KANSAS CITY.	
CATTLE—Native Steers.....	3.25 @ 4.45
Native Cows.....	3.00 @ 3.40
HOGS—Sales at.....	2.75 @ 3.25
WHEAT—No. 2.....	4.50 @ 4.75
CORN—No. 2 Mixed.....	35 1/2 @ 35 3/4
OATS—No. 2.....	44 @ 45 1/2
CHICAGO.	
CATTLE—Native Steers.....	2.00 @ 4.50
HOGS—Common to Choice.....	4.25 @ 4.75
SHEEP—Common to Choice.....	3.50 @ 4.25
FLOUR—Winters.....	5.50 @ 7.00
Spring.....	5.00 @ 5.75
WHEAT—Spring No. 2.....	1.18 1/2 @ 1.19 1/2
CORN—No. 2.....	1.07 1/2 @ 1.07 1/2
OATS—No. 2.....	28 1/2 @ 29 1/2
RYE—No. 2.....	73 1/2 @ 74 1/2
PORK—Mess.....	10.00 @ 10.50
NEW ORLEANS.	
FLOUR—High Grades.....	6.00 @ 6.55
CORN—White.....	45 @ 45
OATS—Choice.....	45 @ 45
HAY—Choice.....	14.00 @ 15.00
PORK—Mess.....	12.00 @ 12.75
BACON.....	12 @ 12